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- Regarding the public hearing on CT Driver's licenses for all residents regardless of immigration status.
- Notice of request to give testimony in favor of bill.

As a resident of CT, I am requesting an opportunity to give testimony at the public hearing on expanding access to CT Driver's licenses to all CT residents. My primary concern is the overwhelming burden that our current law places on undocumented families. All over the state, parents are forced to choose between providing for their families and driving without a license- and faced with this predicament, parents naturally and correctly choose the former. As such, our law turns the basic need of parents to provide for their families into a crime.

Given the current climate in which our national leaders are aggressively working to overhaul our immigration system and provide a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented people in this country, it makes little sense to continue a policy that so overwhelmingly burdens our future citizens. It is hard enough to be living in poverty in CT. To be living in poverty with the constant fear of hefty fines, towing fees and the possible disruption of one's work schedule that could potentially lead to dismissal, is both excessive and destabilizing to CT families.

In light of the recent initiative in Illinois and current practices in several states around the country, it is well within our reach to stand on the side of working class immigrant families in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Timothy Eakins